



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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### **North Dakota Department of Health Identifies Additional Hepatitis C Cases**

***Total number of cases associated with the Minot outbreak is 50***

BISMARCK, N.D.—The North Dakota Department of Health has confirmed three additional case of hepatitis C related to the outbreak in Ward County. To date, 50 cases have been identified as part of the outbreak. The newest cases were identified as a result of the department's active investigation in the area.

“While we continue to investigate these new cases, preliminary review has not identified any new exposures, meaning that there is no new information as to how infection may have occurred,” said Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist. The department is conducting testing in the area to better understand the scope of the outbreak and make sure those infected are aware of their status and can seek appropriate medical care.

Hepatitis C is a virus that affects the liver and is transmitted through blood. Most people have no initial symptoms or only mild, non-specific symptoms. Hepatitis C can go undiagnosed for years because of lack of symptoms.

In general, people who inject drugs or have received tattoos from an unregulated source should be tested for hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends that people who were born from 1945 to 1964 (baby boomers) should be tested at least once in their lifetime for hepatitis C.

For more information call Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

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